



LOUISIANA ECONOMIC QUARTERLY

Q2 2014

BREAKTHROUGH
ADVANCEMENT NEW
VISION INVENTION METHOD
MODERNIZATION ORIGINAL
CUTTING EDGE ADVANCEMENT

ACADIANA=
INNOVATION

IMPROVEMENT LEADING POSITION
INVENTION ORIGINATION FOREFRONT
SPEARHEAD
ORIGINAL INVENTION
VISION BREAKTHROUGH
INVENTION ORIGINAL
EDGE REVOLUTION FOREFRONT
ADVANCEMENT
NEW PIONEER METHOD
CUTTING EDGE MODERNIZATION
SPEARHEAD LEADING POSITION
EDGE VISION FOREFRONT
REVOLUTION ADVANCEMENT
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letter from Secretary Moret



In this issue, we examine one of Louisiana’s most exciting, vibrant regions: Acadiana. In discussing what makes this region special, I think you’ll see why global IT leader CGI selected Lafayette for the company’s new 400-job technology center. Lafayette anchors Acadiana as a diverse, prosperous, innovative city where CGI will solve business and IT challenges at a 143-acre research park on the University of Louisiana at Lafayette (UL Lafayette) campus.

Acadiana attracts leading companies like CGI with a culture of innovation. Throughout this issue of *EQ*, we’ll look at how the region’s competitive advantages – including technology assets, higher education research and affordable cost of living – combine to create an ideal environment for such companies as CGI, Enquero, Bizzuka and C & C Technologies. We’ll look at how Acadiana leaders have built upon the bedrock of a strong oil and gas industry and diversified their economy in the advanced manufacturing, healthcare and software development sectors.

A fulcrum of this approach is UL Lafayette, a research university that avidly builds private-sector partnerships to advance the future of its students, faculty and – ultimately – the entire Acadiana Region. UL Lafayette President Joseph Savoie will relate how these partnerships are fostering a future of entrepreneurial success.

For one facet of the Acadiana success story, we’ll visit Aristotle’s Alexander, a young Lafayette technology firm that has its pulse on the cloud-computing revolution. Finally, we’ll examine that certain something – a unique *joie de vivre* – that suffuses life in Acadiana and makes even its transplanted residents some of the most vocal ambassadors for this great region.

I think you’ll truly enjoy our new issue of *EQ* and, as always, I thank you for your continued interest in Louisiana – America’s new frontier for business opportunity.

Stephen Moret, Secretary
Louisiana Economic Development

■ The colors of the cover were inspired by two of Acadiana’s innovators – CGI and UL Lafayette.



ECONOMIC UPDATE

LOUISIANA'S ECONOMY

Q2 2014

BANKING

Total bank equity capital of Louisiana's 140 FDIC-insured reporting institutions was up **38.5 PERCENT** since January 2008, compared to the nation's growth of 26.7 percent. Total assets grew **25.2 PERCENT** since 2008, compared to the nation's 16.3 percent growth.

38.5%

INCREASE

25.2%

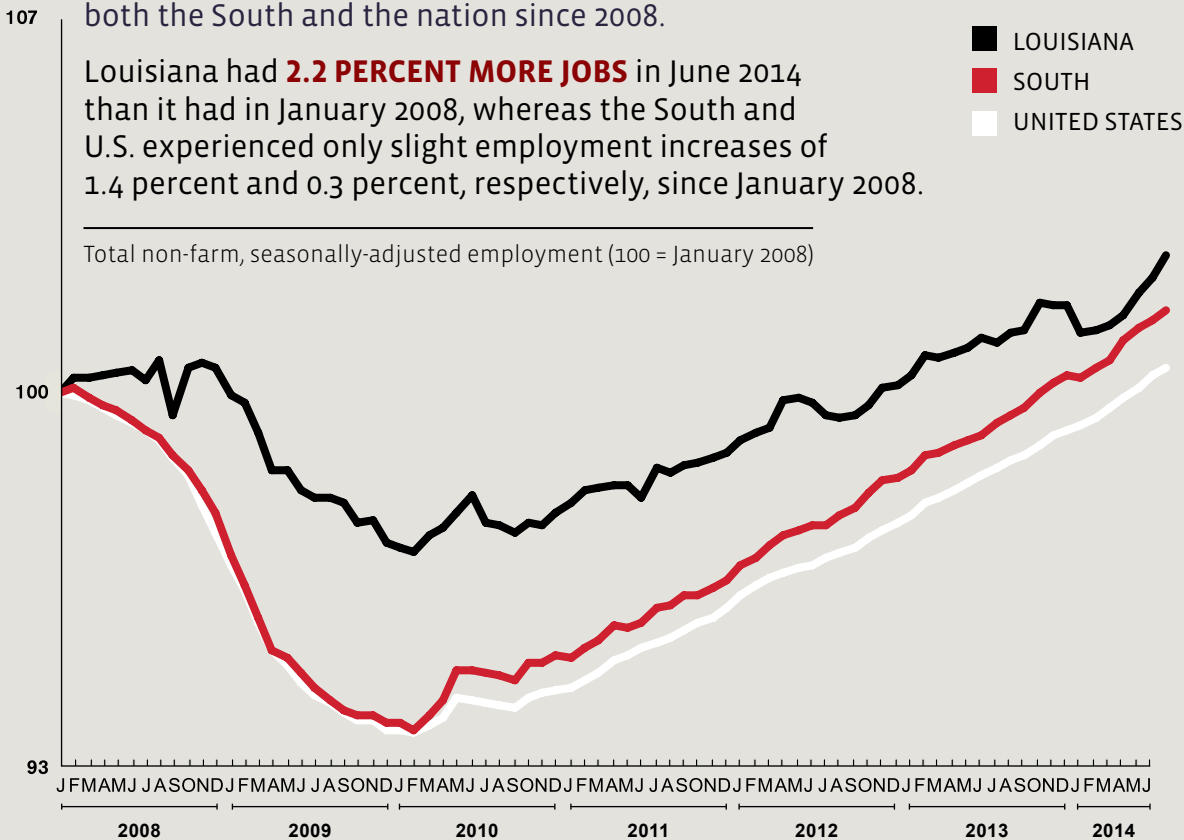
INCREASE

EMPLOYMENT

Louisiana's employment levels have **OUTPERFORMED** both the South and the nation since 2008.

Louisiana had **2.2 PERCENT MORE JOBS** in June 2014 than it had in January 2008, whereas the South and U.S. experienced only slight employment increases of 1.4 percent and 0.3 percent, respectively, since January 2008.

Total non-farm, seasonally-adjusted employment (100 = January 2008)



RANKINGS



STATE OF THE YEAR

Southern Business & Development recognized Louisiana as the 2014 **STATE OF THE YEAR** in the publication's 15-state region, making the fifth time in the past six years Louisiana has earned either State or Co-State of the Year.



The U.S. Chamber of Commerce ranked Louisiana **No. 1** for export intensity and **No. 1** in export growth.

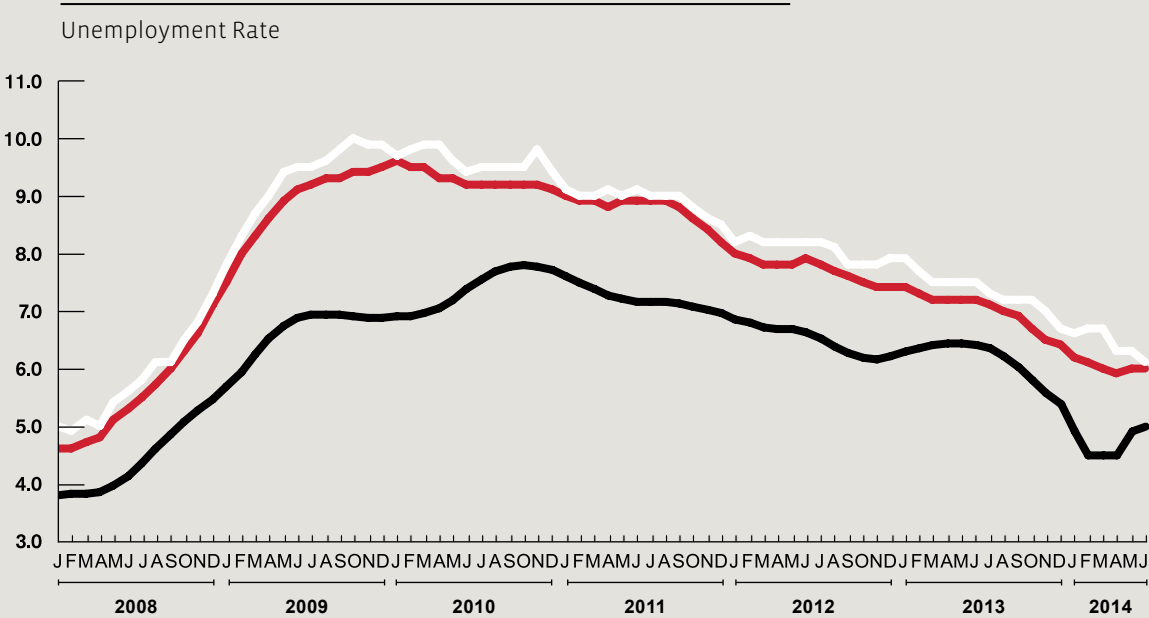


Chief Executive ranked Louisiana **No. 9** in its 2014 Best & Worst States for Business survey, an improvement of 36 spots since 2008.

UNEMPLOYMENT

June 2014 marked the **26TH CONSECUTIVE QUARTER** that Louisiana outperformed both the South and the U.S. with respect to the unemployment rate.

- LOUISIANA
- SOUTH
- UNITED STATES



BEYOND ENERGY

*Advanced manufacturing, healthcare, software
sectors diversify Acadiana's economy* ||



WITH RECENT ANNOUNCEMENTS
SUCH AS BELL HELICOPTER, CGI
AND ENQUERO, ACADIANA'S ADVANCED
MANUFACTURING AND SOFTWARE SECTORS
ARE QUICKLY EXPANDING.

Since oil deposits were first discovered in Louisiana's Acadiana Region in the early 20th century, the energy industry has dominated the local economy. Today, oil and gas remain central to Acadiana's economy, but regional growth relies on other key sectors, such as software development, health care, bioinformatics, hospitality, entertainment and advanced manufacturing.

In December 2013, Bell Helicopter selected Lafayette, Acadiana's largest city, as the site of a new assembly plant that will produce the company's latest model, the Bell 505 JetRanger X helicopter.

Bell will assemble the helicopter in a new 82,300-square-foot manufacturing facility scheduled for completion in 2015 at the Lafayette Regional Airport. Just five months after that announcement, Bell Helicopter officials added another milestone: The company completed a new \$4.5 million, 28,000-square-foot composites facility in the nearby Acadiana city of Broussard, where panels will be manufactured for the 505 JetRanger X and other new and aftermarket assembly sites.

Advanced manufacturing in the region frequently has been homegrown.

"We've got a lot of companies that are coming up with better ways of doing things," says Rebecca Shirley, director of the Acadiana Economic Development Council. "They could have chosen to set up elsewhere, but they find a favorable, pro-business climate in Acadiana."

Noble Plastics, an injection-molding firm in Grand Coteau, has grown continually since its 2000 launch. The company makes instruments of durable plastic instead of metal, saving time and

money. Now, Noble Plastics has added robotic capabilities to create precision products for more customers. Automated processes can be installed on-site for national as well as local customers like Bell Helicopter.

"These are turnkey, customized integration services that we can offer to just about any industry, from food manufacturing to helicopters," says Noble Plastics CEO Missy Rogers. "The products we produce are stronger, faster, lighter and more cost-effective for the client."

Acadiana's healthcare firms have developed solutions for nationwide professionals and institutions. The Schumacher Group is a leader in management systems for emergency rooms across the country. The company employs 1,688 people and works with 3,000 healthcare providers in 28 states.

Apex Innovations, another Acadiana healthcare firm, provides 3-D online tools to educate cardiovascular professionals. Tides Medical of Lafayette develops FDA-approved biologic and orthopedic products to speed healing after surgery or bone injuries.

Acadiana's software sector is growing quickly, with the 2014 announcements of Canada-based CGI and Silicon Valley's Enquero selecting Lafayette for major technology centers. The growth is supported by a strong technology infrastructure that includes the University of Louisiana at Lafayette's School of Computing and Informatics.

In 2014, the State of Louisiana announced a \$4.5 million investment over 10 years led by the university that will result in tripling the number of graduates in computer science, computer engineering and information studies, a key component of meeting regional workforce needs. **EQ**

MOMENTUM >>> LOUISIANA

CGI

400 NEW JOBS, \$22 MILLION ANNUAL PAYROLL

In April 2014, CGI announced the selection of Lafayette for the establishment of a technology center that will create 400 direct jobs. The center will anchor the 143-acre University of Louisiana at Lafayette (UL Lafayette) Research Park and develop complex business and IT solutions for clients seeking a strategic technology partner. CGI selected Lafayette after a nearly two-year national search. Louisiana Economic Development (LED) estimates the project will result in an additional 405 new indirect jobs, for a total of more than 800 new permanent jobs in Acadiana. A key part of the project includes a state-funded, 10-year, \$4.5 million higher education initiative that will triple the number of undergraduate degrees awarded annually by UL Lafayette's School of Computing and Informatics. LED offered CGI a competitive incentive package that includes a performance-based grant of \$5.3 million to reimburse personnel relocation, recruitment, training and building operating costs. CGI will also receive the comprehensive workforce solutions of LED FastStart® and is expected to utilize the state's Quality Jobs and Digital Interactive Media and Software Development incentives.



"Our partnership with Lafayette represents a groundbreaking model for CGI — bringing together the local community to identify opportunities for innovation that can be applied globally, while tapping the talent and resources of Louisiana."

DR. JAMES PEAKE
President of CGI Federal

4TH SOURCE INC.

320 NEW JOBS, \$50,000 AVG. SALARY



4th Source announced in April 2014 that it will relocate the company's corporate headquarters from the Atlanta area to greater New Orleans, where the company also will establish its fourth U.S. office delivering near-shore technology and IT services. The project will create 320 new direct jobs, and Louisiana Economic

Development estimates the project will create an additional 412 new indirect jobs. Founded in 2004, 4th Source specializes in providing technology solutions for the healthcare, financial and software industries. To secure the project, the State of Louisiana offered the company a competitive incentive package, including the workforce solutions of LED FastStart. The company is expected to utilize Louisiana's Digital Interactive Media and Software Development Incentive and the state's Quality Jobs Program.

"Our new facility will serve both existing and new customers. We chose to relocate our headquarters and expand our multisourcing business to Louisiana and Jefferson Parish due to the business-friendly environment, excellent high-technology talent pool and financial incentives to support us in our aggressive growth plans."

MICHAEL WEDGE
CEO of 4th Source Inc.

CHIQUITA BRANDS INTERNATIONAL INC.

270 TO 350 NEW PERMANENT JOBS

In May 2014, Chiquita Brands International Inc. announced the company will relocate its shipping operations from the Port of Gulfport in Mississippi to the Port of New Orleans. Chiquita plans to ship 60,000 to 78,000 twenty-foot-equivalent units (TEUs) per year at the Port of New Orleans, representing a roughly 15 percent increase in current container volumes there. A Louisiana State University economic impact study suggests the project will result in approximately 270 to 350 new permanent jobs in New Orleans — based upon the range of TEUs shipped — as well as an increase in total economic output of \$373 million to \$485 million over the next 10 years. To secure the project, the state will provide a performance-based incentive of \$18.55 per TEU to offset increased shipping and handling costs at the Port of New Orleans, and will invest \$2.2 million in a port-owned distribution/ripening facility to be leased to Chiquita. The Port of New Orleans will invest \$2 million for refrigerated-container electrical infrastructure and rehabilitation of a container freight warehouse to accommodate the project.

“We at Chiquita are thrilled to return to the port and the great city of New Orleans as we implement a new shipping configuration. We are particularly excited about the enhanced service levels to our Chiquita and Great White Fleet customers that will result from this change in our shipping operations and expanded vessel capacity.”

MARIO PACHECO
Senior Vice President of Chiquita Brands International Inc.



MARATHON PETROLEUM

65 NEW DIRECT JOBS, \$115,000 AVG. SALARY, \$2.2 BILLION TO \$2.5 BILLION CAPITAL INVESTMENT

In April 2014, Marathon Petroleum announced the filing of permit applications for a potential \$2.2 billion to \$2.5 billion upgrade to the company’s refinery in Garyville. After completing feasibility studies, Marathon expects to make a final decision on the project in early 2015. If approved, the project would result in hydrotreating, hydrocracking and desulfurization equipment installations, along with additional infrastructure that would include buildings, tanks, cooling towers, and rail and electrical facilities. The 522,000-barrel-per-day Marathon Petroleum site is the largest refinery in Louisiana and the third-largest in the U.S. The capital investment would enable the company to convert a byproduct of the refining process — heavy residual oil — into approximately 1.2 million gallons per day of ultra low-sulfur diesel. Louisiana Economic Development offered Marathon a competitive incentive package that includes a \$3 million, performance-based Modernization Tax Credit and the comprehensive workforce solutions of LED FastStart. In addition, Marathon is expected to utilize the state’s Quality Jobs and Industrial Tax Exemption programs.



“Marathon Petroleum’s Garyville refinery is strategically located to be able to provide products to the Gulf Coast, Midwest, Southeast or export markets. This facility has access to quality employees and contractors in Louisiana to support our operations and potential projects like the Residual Oil Upgrade Expansion.”

RICH BEDELL
Senior Vice President for Refining of Marathon Petroleum Corp.

TCI PLASTICS

160 NEW DIRECT JOBS (200 RETAINED),
\$33,400 AVG. SALARY, \$36.5 MILLION CAPITAL INVESTMENT



TCI PACKAGING

In April 2014, TCI Plastics, a Jensen Companies division, announced the development of a new 500,000-square-foot logistics facility at the Port of New Orleans. The new project continues TCI's development of a mega-plastics district along a Gentilly inner harbor cargo site, located between the Mississippi River and Lake Pontchartrain. The facility will increase the company's ability to package and ship PVC resin and polyethylene while adding the manufacturing capability of producing plastic film on site to package products. To secure the project, the State of Louisiana offered a competitive incentive package that includes an \$800,000 performance-based Economic Development Award Program grant, which will be used to offset the costs of building a rail spur connecting the facility to the New Orleans Public Belt Railroad. The company also is expected to utilize Louisiana's Quality Jobs and Industrial Tax Exemption programs.

"Collectively, we have proven there's appropriate infrastructure to handle this next wave of petrochemical investments right here in Louisiana, so quite literally there's no place like home."

JACK JENSEN
CEO of Jensen Companies

AGRICO SALES

25 NEW DIRECT JOBS, \$40,000 AVG. SALARY, \$2 MILLION CAPITAL INVESTMENT



In April 2014, Agrico Sales announced the company will build a 56,000-square-foot manufacturing facility to produce conveyor and shiploader systems for the dry bulk shipping industry. The project will create 25 new direct jobs. Agrico Sales will retain 35 existing jobs and move its operations from Bridge City to a new site in eastern New Orleans. An estimated 41 new indirect jobs will result. The new facility will provide significantly more space for Agrico Sales and replace the company's existing site in Bridge City. To secure the project, the state offered Agrico Sales the customized screening, hiring and training services of LED FastStart. The company also is expected to utilize the state's Industrial Tax Exemption and Enterprise Zone programs.

"Low-priced natural gas, the Panama Canal expansion and first-class construction sites for port terminals in Louisiana are further fueling demand locally. The new fabrication facility and expanded workforce will allow us to build more equipment in the New Orleans area."

FRANK KELLY
Owner and President of Agrico Sales

MORTGAGE CONTRACTING SERVICES

90 NEW DIRECT JOBS (90 RETAINED)

Mortgage Contracting Services (MCS) announced in April 2014 that it would create 90 new jobs and double the size of its Ruston business process outsourcing center to more than 20,000 square feet. In July 2012, the company announced the opening of a 10,300-square-foot financial services center with the goal of hiring 90 new employees by 2017. MCS hired all 90 initial employees in the first quarter of 2014 — more than three years ahead of schedule. The 10,375-square-foot expansion will retain the original 90 jobs, create 90 new jobs and result in an estimated 42 new indirect jobs. To secure the project, Louisiana assisted MCS in utilizing the state's Enterprise Zone program.



"When we opened the Ruston center, we immediately knew that this community was a perfect fit for our company, but we still were a little surprised by the pace of growth. We are in a position where we have almost met our five-year business plan in less than two years. That doesn't happen unless you have the support of the community and outstanding employees dedicated to client service."

CAROLINE REAVES
CEO of Mortgage Contracting Services

AIR PRODUCTS

32 NEW DIRECT JOBS (308 RETAINED), \$80,000 AVG. SALARY,
\$1 BILLION CAPITAL INVESTMENT

In April 2014, Air Products announced the completion of project investments in Louisiana that have tripled the production capacity of the largest hydrogen pipeline network system in the world. Air Products built and brought online four major hydrogen plants along the Mississippi River from Baton Rouge to the greater New Orleans area. The projects created 32 new direct jobs across the four facilities. Louisiana Economic Development estimates the projects will result in an additional 125 new indirect jobs. Air Products also retained 308 existing jobs and generated 1,600 construction jobs. Air Products is expected to utilize Louisiana's Enterprise Zone and Industrial Tax Exemption Program incentives.

"We have an absolute need to be close to our customers, and along with working closely with the refinery and petrochemical industry around the world, a large portion of our refinery hydrogen business is in the Gulf Coast and specifically in Louisiana. We've grown our presence with our customers and continue to look for additional investment and business opportunities in the state."

STEVE JONES
Senior Vice President of Air Products
and Chemicals Inc.



AM AGRIGEN INDUSTRIES

150 NEW DIRECT JOBS, \$55,000 AVG. SALARY, \$1.2 BILLION CAPITAL INVESTMENT



AM Agrigen Industries announced in May 2014 that the company has selected a St. Charles Parish site to develop a potential \$1.2 billion plant to manufacture granulated urea — one of the most widely used fertilizers in the world. Feasibility studies are underway and the company expects to make a final decision in the first quarter of 2015. The project would create 150 new direct jobs, and Louisiana Economic Development estimates it will result in an additional 1,025 new indirect jobs. To secure the project, Louisiana offered the company a performance-based \$5.6 million grant to offset infrastructure costs of the project. AM Agrigen would receive the workforce solutions of LED FastStart and is expected to utilize the state’s Quality Jobs and Industrial Tax Exemption programs.

“We have been very pleased with the support we have received from the State of Louisiana — and from St. Charles Parish, GNO Inc. and the Port of South Louisiana.”

MARK VANDEVOORDE
CEO of AM Agrigen Industries

POD PACK INTERNATIONAL

19 NEW DIRECT JOBS, \$30,100 AVG. SALARY,
\$10.1 MILLION CAPITAL INVESTMENT



In May 2014, Pod Pack International announced a \$10.1 million, 75,000-square-foot expansion of the company’s manufacturing facility in Baton Rouge. The company will install new equipment to expand its production of compostable coffee and tea pods. In addition to retaining 19 employees at the facility, the company will create 19 new direct jobs, and the project will result in an estimated 67 new indirect jobs. Founded in New Orleans in 1996 by Tom Martin and Bill Powell, the company relocated to Baton Rouge in 2000. The market for single-cup coffee and tea has seen tremendous growth in the past several years, and Pod Pack’s unit sales have more than quadrupled since 2010. To secure the project, Louisiana Economic Development offered a competitive incentive package, including a performance-based \$760,000 award from the state’s Economic Development Loan Program. In addition, the company is expected to utilize the state’s Quality Jobs and Industrial Tax Exemption programs.

“We considered other alternative locations, but we are truly happy we chose Louisiana. We are so grateful for what we have accomplished through our employees, our customers and the local support.”

TOM MARTIN
Executive Vice President and COO of Pod Pack International

STEP-KO PRODUCTS LLC

11 NEW JOBS, 100% SALES GROWTH



Founded in 2000, Step-Ko Products is a global provider of corrosion protective products, with sales in over 42 countries. The company promotes flange protection products, insulated enclosures and pipeline markers for industrial and oil and gas applications. Step-Ko worked with the Louisiana Small Business Development Center (LSBDC) at University of Louisiana at Lafayette to receive assistance with website development and industry-specific software training. Step-Ko also received assistance from Louisiana Economic Development’s Economic Gardening Initiative in identifying additional applications for the company’s products and developing the company’s growth outside of the region and Louisiana.

“The small business programs offered by Louisiana Economic Development and LSBDC have been instrumental in helping focus on long-term growth strategies that have certainly paid off. We have grown 100 percent in sales since utilizing these resources and look forward to greater possibilities in the future.”

BYRON STEPHENS
Owner of Step-Ko Products

MODULE X SOLUTIONS

357 NEW DIRECT JOBS (109 RETAINED), \$49,800 AVG. SALARY,
\$7.4 MILLION CAPITAL INVESTMENT



In June 2014, Module X Solutions announced the company will make a \$7.4 million capital investment and create 357 new direct jobs at a 750,000-square-foot Shreveport manufacturing facility. Module X Solutions will join existing tenant MB Industries LLC at the City of Shreveport-owned industrial property, with Module X Solutions chiefly manufacturing modular buildings for the

telecommunications sector while supporting MB Industries production of protective building systems for the industrial, government, commercial and residential markets. The project will retain 109 existing jobs and result in an estimated 578 new indirect jobs. To secure the project, the state offered the company a competitive incentive package that includes a \$1.8 million performance-based grant and a \$1.8 million Economic Development Award Program grant, with both incentives funding improvements of publicly owned infrastructure at the City of Shreveport manufacturing site. Module X Solutions will receive the workforce services of LED FastStart and is expected to utilize the state's Quality Jobs and Industrial Tax Exemption programs.

"Manufactured locally and deployed both domestically and internationally, our product lines encompass concrete, metal and blast-resistant modular structures. We are excited about creating hundreds of new manufacturing jobs, and are truly appreciative of the support and commitments we have received from the Louisiana Economic Development team, the North Louisiana Economic Partnership, and Mayor [Cedric] Glover and the Shreveport city administration."

STEVE SCHOONOVER
CEO of Module X Solutions

SB INTERNATIONAL INC.

82 NEW DIRECT JOBS
(52 RETAINED),
\$50,000 AVG. SALARY,
\$32.5 MILLION CAPITAL INVESTMENT



SB International, Inc.

SB International Inc. announced in June 2014 that Centric Pipe, an SB International affiliate, will make a \$32.5 million capital investment to renovate and expand the former Northwest Pipe facility in Bossier City. Dallas-based SB International formed Centric Pipe, which purchased the Bossier City facility in March 2014 and acquired the assets of Northwest Pipe Co.'s oil country tubular goods business. In addition to creating 82 new direct jobs, the project will retain 52 existing employees and result in an estimated 209 new indirect jobs. Centric Pipe will manufacture and supply welded-steel pipe and tubular products for domestic clients in the oil and gas industry. The \$32.5 million investment will add new equipment and a rail spur to the facility. To secure the project, Louisiana offered the company a \$2 million performance-based grant to offset infrastructure improvement costs at the site. Centric Pipe will receive the comprehensive workforce services of LED FastStart, and the company is expected to utilize the state's Quality Jobs and Industrial Tax Exemption programs.

"Louisiana is a great advocate and true partner for business expansion and new operations. Various state and local programs and the low-tax environment make it very welcoming to grow here, and the state has an impressive transportation infrastructure that supports American manufacturing."

SATISH GUPTA
President and CEO of SB International Inc.



Joie de Vivre

QUALITY OF LIFE ABOUNDS IN ACADIANA

While Acadiana enjoys strong economic growth, a colorful quality of life makes the South Louisiana region even more attractive to residents. At the heart of Acadiana, Lafayette offers convenient living with what matters most.



HIGH-PERFORMING SCHOOLS?

Just ask Geoff Daily.



TOP-FLIGHT MEDICAL FACILITIES?

“Growing up in Minnesota we had a great sense of community, but lacked culture,” says Daily, who directs the Lafayette General Health system’s philanthropic foundation. “Living in [Washington] D.C. for five years, we had plenty of culture, but not a lot of community. In Lafayette, we get both — a vibrant culture and an incredible community that has completely embraced us.”



LOW COST-OF-LIVING?

In 2013, About.com readers embraced Lafayette’s annual Festival International de Louisiane, naming it the No. 1 world music festival. Said the site’s Megan Romer: “... Lafayette, Louisiana, holds this massive free celebration of international music and culture, with a francophone focus, and hundreds of thousands of their closest friends join them for the party.”



QUALITY HOMES AND AFFORDABLE PROPERTY TAXES?

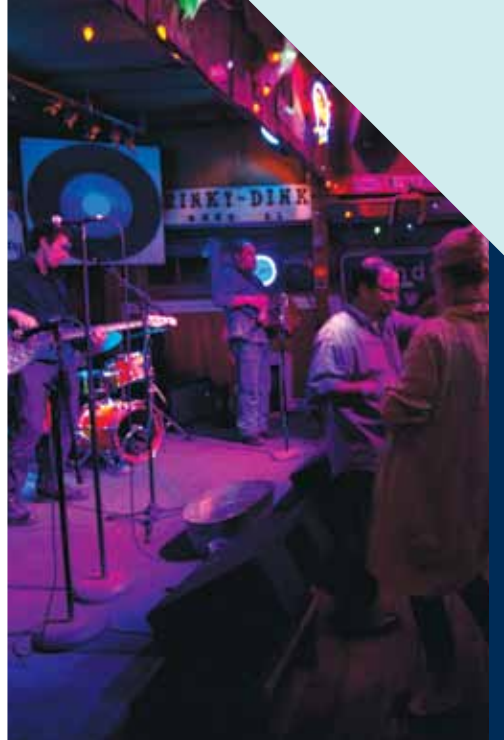
Acadiana’s world-renowned music scene spans large festivals, national touring acts, intimate clubs and lively Cajun dancehalls. The region’s outdoors pursuits — hunting, fishing, golf, birding and boating — are



DIVERSE SHOPPING?



HIP CULTURE, FUNKY FOOD AND FUN TIMES?



Acadiana Experiences

Geoff Daily

► *Executive Director, Lafayette General Foundation
Lafayette*

Originally from Minneapolis, Geoff Daily came to Lafayette via Washington, D.C., where he worked on broadband policy and assisted technology startups.

“Professionally, I was interested in improving health care through the use of fiber optics. In Lafayette, I saw a research university, strong leaders, a strong businesses community and people with the vision to do something big, combined with a real sense of partnership and care for each other to put issues aside and get it done. My goal is to transform our community into a living lab for healthcare innovation — a real-world test bed for the next generation of health care.”

Butch Roussel

► *Clinical Research Consultant, Vivo Research
Lafayette*

Butch Roussel grew up in Hammond, about two hours east of Lafayette. After living in Washington, D.C., for two years and attending graduate school at Johns Hopkins University, he returned to Louisiana to pursue a research career in Acadiana.

“When I finished grad school, I wanted to move back to Louisiana, and it came down to New Orleans or Lafayette. Sure, I love the food, music, arts and festivals in Acadiana, but it’s the people here that make the region great. It’s a special place to them, and when they want to achieve something, the entire community bonds together to make sure that it happens. It’s because of this culture and mindset that we have such a great environment, and I’m glad to be a part of it.”

Liv Stevenson

► *Intern Architect, Structure Design Group
Breaux Bridge*

A transfer led Liv Stevenson and her husband Chris to Lafayette from Denver. Liv works for an architectural firm and Chris has now been hired as a software developer in Lafayette for CGI Federal, one of the world’s leading providers of IT and business process services.

“Chris was transferred to Lafayette for a job that he has since left. Today, we could move anywhere, but why would we? The region is amazing. There are more community events, gatherings and things to do in Lafayette than any place we’ve been. From a career perspective, there are clearly opportunities for growth. CGI Federal provides a world of opportunities for Chris, and I’m confident that the region’s continued growth means more architectural jobs for me. I also have a contractor’s license and am interested in pursuing those opportunities.”

just as renowned along the Atchafalaya Basin waterway and the Gulf of Mexico coast.

Cajun people also prize education and work. High-performing public schools include a magnet-style approach of special-interest curricula, called Schools of Choice, and competitive private and parochial schools. The region’s quality of life attracts young professionals, who plug into the community through such organizations as “the705,” a civic group named for the first three digits of Lafayette ZIP codes.

Acadian life strikes a healthy balance between work and play, with residents who are passionate about a region that even motivates transplants to be vocal ambassadors. **EQ**

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REVOLUTION ADVANCEMENT

IMPORTANT NOVELTY

ORIGINAL



The tipping point may have come in 2012. That year, at an international summit of technology experts in Louisiana, Todd Park, then-chief technology officer for the United States, looked around at the gathering and tapped these words to his Twitter followers:

“Silicon Bayou — aka Lafayette, Louisiana — is the best-kept secret reservoir of innovation mojo in America.”

Park's tweet followed what Lafayette leaders had preached and practiced for decades: that intelligent investment in technology by city and state leaders would reap a significant return on investment. The proof lies not only in observations by experts like Park, but also in bona fide data.

In 2013, *Area Development* magazine crunched federal and private data for 21 indicators to determine where 380 U.S. metros rank for economic and job growth. Silicon Valley — the metro San Jose, California, area — ranked No. 2.

No. 1? Lafayette.

“What you are seeing in Lafayette is investments in the knowledge economy paying off,” says Ramesh Kolluru, vice president for research at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette (UL Lafayette).

HUB CITY

Nicknamed “Hub City,” Lafayette is a center of energy production and services in the Gulf of Mexico region. In recent years, Lafayette took steps to diversify its economy and invested in assets that built greater capacity for innovation, says Gregg Gothreaux, president and CEO of the Lafayette Economic Development Authority.

“In addition to energy, Lafayette has positioned itself as a medical, transportation, entertainment, education, finance and retail hub,” Gothreaux says. “It’s our forward-thinking, community-wide initiatives that have allowed economic development, government, education and private investors to attract new technology-intensive businesses and innovations to Acadiana.”

One such initiative is the locally funded Lafayette Utilities System’s fiber-to-the-home-and-business service, which brings 100 percent fiber-optic access to all of Lafayette and provides one-gigabyte-per-second speed. Such capacity enables established technology companies as well as startups to interact seamlessly with offsite clients and employees, and to engage in projects that require real-time analytics.

UL Lafayette, Acadiana’s research university, contributes heavily to Lafayette’s rising reputation

as a high-tech hub. The university’s Center for Business & Information Technologies organizes the CajunCodeFest, where Park tweeted his discovery of the region’s “innovation mojo.”

Other regional assets include UL Lafayette’s School of Computing and Informatics, one of the earliest computer science programs established in the country. The School of Computing and Informatics frequently consults with a private-sector brain trust and parlays that intelligence into cutting-edge instruction that fits the changing needs of industry.

In addition, UL Lafayette partners with Drexel University to operate the National Science Foundation’s only Industry/University Cooperative Research Center focused on “big data” visualization, analytics and decision informatics. The Center for Visual and Decision Informatics tackles big data challenges and collaborates with government and industry partners.

Kolluru attributes the community’s reputation as a hub for thought leaders to years of planning.

“The confluence of technology and innovation here is very exciting,” he says. “We are able to offer significant differentiators that set us apart from other locations around the country.”

SETTING THE STAGE

At the state level, a concerted investment in policy reforms undergirded Acadiana's ascent. Louisiana reforms in workforce programs, education, governmental ethics laws, spending and tax structure since 2008 set the stage for more than \$54 billion in new capital investment and over 83,000 new jobs statewide — all stemming from new project announcements.

Major publications — such as *Site Selection*, *Area Development*, *Business Facilities* and *Chief Executive* — now rank Louisiana as a Top 10 business climate in the U.S. Moreover, innovative products and services are emerging from the state as entrepreneurs find a culture that encourages the next great idea.

In March 2014, the world's fifth-largest independent IT services firm, CGI, selected Lafayette as the site for a 400-job U.S. technology center. A few months later in July, a Silicon Valley-based software development company, Enquero, announced it would open a 350-job high-performance technology center in Lafayette.

Both CGI and Enquero searched nationwide for the right expansion sites. Company leaders attributed their selection of Lafayette to the state's highly competitive Digital Interactive Media and Software Development Incentive, along with higher education partnerships and Louisiana's No. 1-ranked state workforce development program, LED FastStart®. Additionally, CGI will participate in a state-funded, 10-year, \$4.5 million higher education



In April 2014, CGI selected Lafayette for a 400-job technology center.



Software development company Enquero announced in July 2014 that it would open a 350-job high-performance technology center in Lafayette.

LAFAYETTE DOES AN INCREDIBLE JOB OF PROMOTING CREATIVITY AND INNOVATION. WE'VE GOT A BUSINESS-FRIENDLY CLIMATE THAT INVITES NEW IDEAS."

John Munsell, CEO/Co-founder, Bizzuka

initiative that will triple the number of bachelor's degrees awarded annually by UL Lafayette's School of Computing and Informatics.

The companies also credited Lafayette and the city's powerful "can-do" attitude. Building upon its legacy as an oil and gas hub — where risk-taking is routine — Acadiana is now lauded in national site selection discussions for its culture of ingenuity.

Similarly, Enquero founders Hemant Asher, Arvinder Pal Singh and Kabir Singh evaluated other leading software cites but found unsurpassed advantages in Lafayette: among them, the state's Quality Jobs and Software Development incentives, as well as local incentives to offset startup costs. Enquero will locate in the Louisiana Immersive Technologies Enterprise facility, a



**THERE IS REAL ENERGY HERE. ITS A PLACE THAT'S
LEGENDARY FOR ACTION AND OPTIMISM."**

Chris Allain, CEO, Vidox Motion Imagery

Anchoring Acadiana, Lafayette is Louisiana's fourth-largest city with a metro population of approximately 275,000. Yet it's also a city that offers a cost of living well below other technology clusters in the U.S.

In Lafayette, businesses and their employees benefit from fast-and-affordable bandwidth, low-cost electric utilities, high quality of life and a growing economy. Acadiana is home to business and technology incubators and a community and technical college network, as well as UL Lafayette.

CGI selected Lafayette after an extensive, two-year site selection process. The company's new technology center will be the anchor tenant in the 143-acre UL Lafayette Research Park, where CGI will develop complex IT solutions for clients. CGI operates several other U.S. technology centers, known as Onshore IT Delivery Centers, but the Louisiana facility will focus on innovation, says Dr. James Peake, president of CGI Federal and a U.S. Army retired lieutenant general.

"Our partnership with Lafayette represents a groundbreaking model for CGI — bringing together the local community to identify opportunities for innovation that can applied globally, while tapping the talent and resources of Louisiana," Peake says.

\$27 million, 70,000-square-foot complex that offers one of the most comprehensive and tightly integrated data visualization and supercomputing installations in the world.

Like CGI, Enquero will partner with UL Lafayette's highly regarded School of Computing and Informatics.

"Lafayette and the State of Louisiana far exceeded our expectations from all dimensions," says Asher, Enquero's managing partner for finance and operations. "We found Lafayette to be an extremely entrepreneurial community with strong alignment between its community stakeholders, such as the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, South Louisiana Community College, Lafayette Economic Development Authority and others. The community leaders clearly understood Enquero's vision and its needs as a growth company."

INNOVATION CAPITAL

More than a decade ago, John Munsell discovered what CGI and Enquero know today.

In 2003, he moved Bizzuka from Tampa, Florida, to Lafayette, where the technology firm grew significantly and landed in the *Inc.* 5000 fastest-growing private companies in 2010, 2011 and 2012.



Left: Bizzuka moved from Tampa, Florida, to Lafayette in 2003. The company provides custom web design and content management solutions, intranet development and more. Right: Lafayette's C & C Technologies was among the first to offer commercial autonomous underwater vehicle survey services to the offshore industry.

Bizzuka's recent innovation, Thinbox, enhances business collaboration with an app allowing users to select preferred formats and devices for all message delivery. Senders may simultaneously broadcast messages via email, mobile phones, websites, intranets, Twitter and Facebook.

"Lafayette does an incredible job of promoting creativity and innovation," Munsell says. "We've got a business-friendly climate that invites new ideas."

Among the region's creativity leaders is INNOV8 Lafayette, which recruits national speakers, recognizes innovators and recommends area companies with groundbreaking projects to national and international clients.

INNOV8's 2014 award-winners include C & C Technologies, a pioneer in the use of autonomous submarines for subsea surveys. C & C Technologies is operated by brothers Thomas and Jim Chance, whose father John developed offshore survey applications still in use today, including 24-hour, 365-day satellite positioning.

The largest privately held, advanced survey firm in the world, C & C recently introduced the first commercially operated deepwater Autonomous Underwater Vehicle (AUV) for oil and gas exploration. The AUV has saved the oil and gas industry significant time and money, says Vice President and Director of Marketing David Connell. The instrument can cover 85 to 100 nautical miles a day and provides a much higher resolution than past technologies.

"The company has always been on the cutting-edge of technology," Connell says. "We have a culture that supports the development of new ideas, even ones that don't immediately hit the marketplace."

It's that kind of culture that ignites Acadiana's innovation mojo.

"There is real energy here," says Chris Allain, co-founder of INNOV8 Lafayette and CEO of Vidox Motion Imagery. "It's a place that's legendary for action and optimism." **EQ**



GREEKS TO GEEKS

IT FIRM ARISTOTLE'S ALEXANDER
EMBRACES CLASSICAL APPROACH TO
CONTEMPORARY DATA CHALLENGES



Greek philosopher and scientist Aristotle tutored young Alexander the Great, educating the future king in the art of politics, communication and people management, as well as instilling him with a strong set of morals.

“Essentially, we’re Aristotle to our client’s Alexander,” explains Christopher S. Hebert, CEO of Aristotle’s Alexander, when asked about the company’s unique name. “We are an information technology consulting firm committed to delivering advanced IT solutions that meet our clients’ business challenges. We provide this service in tandem with integrity and a strong moral compass.”

For years, Hebert traveled the U.S. as an independent consultant before deciding in 2008 to return to his hometown of Lafayette and begin a startup technology company. Today, the firm’s expertise spans strategic consulting, enterprise technology solutions, systems integration, application development and data orchestration for local, regional and international clients.

“One of our strengths is partnering with companies managing remote field operations where connectivity is not available, like offshore oil rigs or off-the-grid construction projects,” Hebert says. “We’ve developed an innovative software framework that allows team members to connect to a cloud-based system and work off-line processing safety information, tracking equipment, completing work tickets and invoices, entering personnel data — and more, all in real time.”

Integrating information systems is another benefit the company provides many clients. In the oil and gas industry, for instance, a multitude of recent mergers and acquisitions challenge companies with the monumental task of combining information from multiple entities. Aristotle’s Alexander seamlessly joins separate departments, systems, procedures and processes to ensure the information technology portion of the merger or acquisition goes smoothly.

Aristotle’s Alexander frequently consults in the healthcare landscape as companies struggle to adapt to the industry’s rapid changes. Hebert and his team assist in integrating information for patients, physicians, hospitals and insurance providers. Amid rising demand for mobile

applications, Aristotle’s Alexander offers additional technology to better connect doctors and patients, providing them with relevant information in a secure manner.

While Aristotle’s Alexander has established a reputation for outstanding client service, Hebert credits Louisiana Economic Development (LED) for playing a major support role in jumpstarting his business.

“During our startup phase, we utilized LED’s Small and Emerging Business Development program to provide overall strategies, as well as legal and contractual guidance,” Hebert says.

“THE ACADIANA REGION AND THE STATE [OF LOUISIANA] HAVE BOTH BEEN VERY SUPPORTIVE OF THE TECH INDUSTRY...WE HAVE AN EXTREMELY TALENTED AND BRILLIANT STAFF, AND I ONLY EXPECT IT TO GROW.”

CHRISTOPHER S. HEBERT
CEO OF ARISTOTLE’S ALEXANDER

More recently, Aristotle’s Alexander tapped LED’s Economic Gardening Initiative for assistance in competitive analysis, the production of marketing communication materials and digital media strategy. The results have been impressive, with the company poised to hire seven to 10 new professionals for software developers, sales members, project managers and support technicians.

“The Acadiana Region and the State [of Louisiana] have both been very supportive of the tech industry, and I’m glad my company is playing a part in providing personal and professional opportunities here,” Hebert says. “We have an extremely talented and brilliant staff, and I only expect it to grow.” **EQ**

EQ & A

Dr. Joseph Savoie

A native of Sulphur, Dr. Joseph Savoie served in the cabinet of three Louisiana governors — Mike Foster, Kathleen Blanco and Bobby Jindal — before returning to his alma mater in July 2008 to become the sixth president of the University of Louisiana at Lafayette (UL Lafayette). There, Savoie's economic development initiatives have included a new partnership with global information technology firm CGI.

EQ: What is the role of UL Lafayette in economic growth — and is that role changing?

Savoie: Our role in economic development is evolving to focus on public-private partnerships, commercialization of intellectual property and technology transfer. We are also creating new programs and changing our curricula to reflect industry workforce needs.

EQ: What impact will the partnership with CGI have on the university's computer science program?

Savoie: In the short term, you will see us adding new courses and revamping existing ones to serve the needs of CGI and other technology companies in Louisiana.

Longer term, as we triple the number of graduates in computing and technology-related disciplines, we will position ourselves as a Top 25 school in terms of the number of students earning bachelor's degrees in those areas. That will help us attract more high-quality students, faculty, researchers and companies, creating even more opportunities for economic development.

EQ: What ripple effect do you think you'll see from CGI's site selection decision?

Savoie: The ripple effect is that Louisiana has become competitive in attracting the software industry. Its expanding success communicates to the largest corporations in the U.S. and beyond, that universities here rank alongside the best in the nation in their ability to produce a well-qualified talent pool, world-class research and essential software infrastructure.

EQ: What makes the university's computer science program and its students compelling economic resources?

Savoie: The computer science program has a storied past. The nation's first master's degree in computer science was offered at this university when it was the University of Southwestern Louisiana. Our Center for Visual and Decision Informatics is the first National Science Foundation Center of Excellence in Louisiana. It is funded mostly by industry and focuses on finding solutions to big data problems identified by industry.

EQ: Can you tell us about your partnership with Charles River Analytics?

Savoie: Our work with Charles River Analytics epitomizes our model of public-private partnership. Dr. Arun Lakhota, a professor in our Center for Advanced Computer Studies, is a prominent researcher in the area of cybersecurity. He has worked with Charles River Analytics on collaborations that are producing commercially viable technologies that increase our ability as a nation to mitigate cyber threats, understand the threat profile and protect ourselves from those who seek to do us harm.

EQ: What are other notable private partnerships involving the university?

Savoie: There are multiple examples of partnerships that reflect our commitment to research for a reason. They include biomedical research involving the New Iberia Research Center and major pharmaceutical companies that support drug discovery and delivery. We are also working to develop clean energy through our partnership with the Energy Institute and Cleco, with an \$8 million investment in a state-of-the-art facility to support research and collaboration. **EQ**



CAJUN INNOVATION

FROM CLOUD-BASED SYSTEMS TO
AUTOMATED BOATS, ACADIANA
ACHIEVES REMARKABLE RESEARCH
AND DEVELOPMENT RESULTS



RESEARCHERS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA AT LAFAYETTE [UL LAFAYETTE] ARE SOLVING BIG DATA CHALLENGES EVERY DAY, APPLYING HIGH-CAPACITY FIBER TO HEALTHCARE SOLUTIONS AND DEVELOPING DEFENSE INNOVATIONS, SUCH AS A JET-POWERED BOAT THAT DRIVES ITSELF.

Industry-driven research gives firms in Louisiana's Acadiana Region a competitive advantage, says Ramesh Kolluru, vice president for research at UL Lafayette. It's an edge made more powerful by the Lafayette community's investment in ultrafast broadband fiber that supports — even makes possible — key aspects of that research.

"This is a community with a tradition of entrepreneurship and technological innovation, and that tradition carries over to what happens at the university," Kolluru says.

In 2012, for instance, the university partnered with Philadelphia's Drexel University to create the Center for Visual and Decision Informatics. The industry-funded center at UL Lafayette is the nation's only National Science Foundation Center of Excellence in the realm of big data.

In two years, the center helped the university license 16 new technologies based on the work of its researchers. But the center and those breakthroughs "were made possible because of Lafayette's (fiber) infrastructure," says Kolluru, who describes the center as "transformative in our ability to partner with IT industry, just like we have been teaming up with energy and pharmaceutical companies for years."

The university's record as a leading computer science innovator and the city's high-capacity fiber helped Lafayette earn a spot in a national initiative to find solutions for six areas of priority, including health care.

Through that initiative, UL Lafayette partners with regional healthcare providers and public schools to develop technology for monitoring patients, reducing childhood obesity and enabling the

elderly to live at home. Lafayette is one of 25 cities contributing to the Living Lab for Health Innovations.

"Some of the nation's most creative ideas in health care are being, and will be, developed here in Lafayette," he says.

Meanwhile, university researchers are devising new defenses against harmful "malware" computer programs that wreak havoc on Internet-based systems.

Malware-analysis expert Arun Lakhotia, a professor in UL Lafayette's School of Computing and Informatics, works with Charles River Analytics of Cambridge, Massachusetts, to create software that detects such attacks and prevents damage.

Their partnership secured an Air Force contract to build a cloud-based system that recognizes and responds to changing malware threats. The project, Semi-Supervised Algorithms Against Malware Evolution, will be essential in fending off hacking attempts on a growing range of technologies, including personal communications devices, Lakhotia explains.

"Hacking attempts double each year, so we need more intelligent and automated systems to detect them and protect against them," Lakhotia says.

Lakhotia played a prominent role in the university's development of a self-driving car. The university's CajunBot vehicle repeatedly reached the semifinals of the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency's Grand Challenge races that pit robotic vehicles developed by university teams against each other.

UL Lafayette doctoral student Nicholas Lipari uses 3-D technology to monitor real-time data.
Photo by Doug Dugas, UL Lafayette

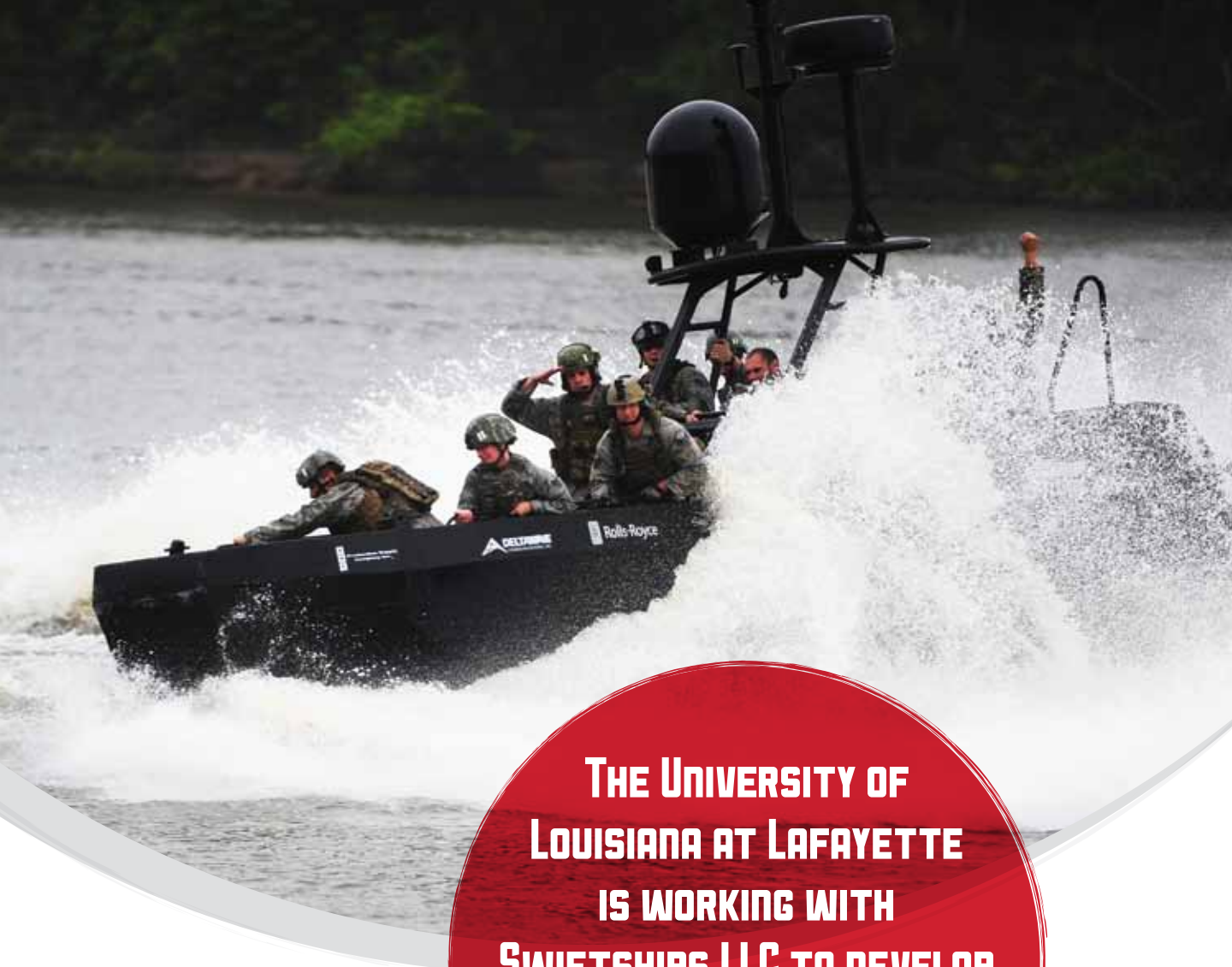


Photo by Sgt. Dennis Mickle,
United States Air Force

**THE UNIVERSITY OF
LOUISIANA AT LAFAYETTE
IS WORKING WITH
SWIFTSHIPS LLC TO DEVELOP
A MILITARY BOAT CAPABLE
OF AUTONOMOUS
NAVIGATION.**

UL Lafayette’s success with CajunBot prompted Louisiana-based Swiftships to seek Lakhotia’s expertise in developing an unmanned, high-performance military riverboat.

Self-driving boats existed, but they generally were slow-moving watercraft used for survey work, explains Joshua Vaughan, assistant professor of mechanical engineering in the UL Lafayette College of Engineering. Swiftships last year asked the university to develop technology for a very different kind of self-driving boat: a 35-foot, water-jet-propelled riverboat capable of cruising at 50 knots per hour and making a 360-degree turn on demand.

Already, UL Lafayette has developed iPhone and iPad apps to remotely operate the Swiftships high-

performance Anaconda boat. Additional work will involve substituting those remote systems with automated ones, Vaughan explains.

Basic autonomy, or waypoint tracking in the absence of obstacles, has been achieved. Next, researchers will deploy systems for the Anaconda that sense objects in the boat’s path, while also detecting and responding to threats from attacks, and sensing changes in water depth — all at high rates of speed and sometimes while under attack.

“The goal is a boat that can complete high-speed, dangerous missions without putting troops in harm’s way,” Vaughan says. **EQ**



LOUISIANA INCENTIVE SNAPSHOT

ECONOMIC INCENTIVES FOR BUSINESSES OF ALL SIZES

► COMPETITIVE PROJECTS PAYROLL INCENTIVE

Provides a payroll rebate of up to 15% in target sectors for up to 10 years, and either a 4% sales/use tax rebate on capital expenditures or a facility expense rebate equal to 1.5% of qualifying expenses

► COMPETITIVE PROJECTS TAX EXEMPTION

Provides a 10-year property tax abatement in selected parishes on qualifying capital investments of at least \$25 million in targeted non-manufacturing industry sectors. The abatement is for the ad valorem taxes in excess of \$10 million or 10% of the fair market value of the property, whichever is greater

► CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS RELOCATION PROGRAM

Provides a rebate of up to 25% of facilities and relocation costs, to be claimed in equal parts over five years

► CORPORATE TAX APPORTIONMENT PROGRAM

Provides single-sales factor apportionment to highly competitive projects in order to secure jobs and business investment in target industry sectors

► DIGITAL INTERACTIVE MEDIA AND SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT INCENTIVE

Provides a 35% tax credit for Louisiana resident labor expenditures and a 25% refundable tax credit on qualified production expenditures

► ENTERPRISE ZONE PROGRAM

Provides a one-time \$2,500 tax credit per certified net new job, and either a 4% sales/use tax rebate on qualifying expenses or an investment tax credit equal to 1.5% of capital expenditures, excluding tax-exempted items

► INDUSTRIAL TAX EXEMPTION

Provides a 100% property tax abatement for up to 10 years on manufacturer's qualifying capital investments

► LED FASTSTART®

Provides workforce recruitment, screening and training to eligible new and expanding Louisiana companies at no cost

► MOTION PICTURE INVESTOR TAX CREDIT

Provides a tax credit of 30% on qualified production expenditures and an additional 5% tax credit for Louisiana resident labor expenditures

► MUSICAL AND THEATRICAL PRODUCTION TAX INCENTIVE

Provides a tax credit of up to 35% on qualified production or infrastructure development expenditures; additional credits available for payroll and transportation expenditures

► QUALITY JOBS

Provides a 5% or 6% rebate on annual payroll expenses for up to 10 years, and either a 4% sales/use tax rebate on capital expenditures or an investment tax credit equal to 1.5% of qualifying expenses

► RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT TAX CREDIT

Provides up to a 40% tax credit for Louisiana businesses (based on employment) that conduct research and development activities in Louisiana

► RESTORATION TAX ABATEMENT

Provides a five-year 100% property tax abatement for the rehabilitation of an existing structure based on assessed valuation of property prior to beginning of improvements

► SOUND RECORDING INVESTOR TAX CREDIT

Provides a 25% refundable tax credit on qualified expenditures for sound recording productions

► TECHNOLOGY COMMERCIALIZATION CREDIT AND JOBS PROGRAM

Provides a 40% refundable tax credit on costs related to the commercialization of Louisiana technology and a 6% payroll rebate for the creation of new direct jobs

SPECIAL INCENTIVES FOR SMALL BUSINESSES

► ANGEL INVESTOR TAX CREDIT

Provides a tax credit of up to 35% for individual investors when they invest in early-stage, wealth-creating businesses

► ECONOMIC GARDENING INITIATIVE

Provides Louisiana-based small businesses with accelerated technical assistance and research from an experienced national economic gardening team

► SMALL BUSINESS LOAN PROGRAM

Provides up to 75% loan guarantees to facilitate capital accessibility

► VETERAN INITIATIVE

Provides veteran-owned and disabled, service-oriented, small businesses with greater potential for access to state procurement and public contract opportunities

For more information on Louisiana's incentives visit OpportunityLouisiana.com.

Regions & Partners



REGION	REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION	REGIONAL HUB
1. BAYOU	South Louisiana Economic Council	Houma/Thibodaux
2. SOUTHEAST	Greater New Orleans Inc.	New Orleans
3. CAPITAL	Baton Rouge Area Chamber	Baton Rouge
4. ACADIANA	Acadiana Economic Development Council	Lafayette
5. SOUTHWEST	Southwest Louisiana Economic Development Alliance	Lake Charles
6. CENTRAL	Central Louisiana Economic Development Alliance	Alexandria
7. NORTHEAST	Northeast Louisiana Economic Alliance	Monroe
8. NORTHWEST	North Louisiana Economic Partnership	Shreveport/Bossier

Louisiana has an extensive network of economic development organizations and allies dedicated to helping our communities attract, grow and maintain business in our state.

1. Bayou Region

- Assumption Chamber of Commerce
- Chamber of Lafourche and the Bayou Region
- Houma-Terrebonne Chamber of Commerce
- Lafourche Parish Economic Development
- South Central Industrial Association
- St. Mary Chamber of Commerce
- St. Mary Economic Development
- St. Mary Industrial Group
- Terrebonne Economic Development Authority
- Thibodaux Chamber of Commerce

2. Southeast Region

- Jefferson Parish Economic Development Commission
- New Orleans Business Alliance
- Plaquemines Association of Business & Industry
- St. Bernard Parish Economic Development Foundation
- St. Charles Parish Department of Economic Development & Tourism
- St. James Parish Department of Economic Development
- St. John the Baptist Parish Department of Economic Development
- St. Tammany Economic Development Foundation
- Tangipahoa Economic Development Foundation
- Washington Economic Development Foundation

3. Capital Region

- Ascension Economic Development Corporation
- City of Baton Rouge/ East Baton Rouge Parish
- East Feliciana Parish Economic Development
- Greater Pointe Coupee Chamber of Commerce
- Iberville Chamber of Commerce
- Livingston Economic Development Council
- St. Helena Parish Economic Development Committee
- West Baton Rouge Chamber of Commerce
- West Feliciana Parish Community Development Foundation

4. Acadiana Region

- Crowley Chamber of Commerce
- Evangeline Parish Industrial Board
- Iberia Industrial Development Foundation
- Lafayette Economic Development Authority
- St. Landry Parish Economic Industrial Development District
- St. Martin Economic Development Authority
- Vermilion Chamber of Commerce

5. Southwest Region

- Calcasieu Parish Planning and Development
- Chennault International Airport Authority
- City of Lake Charles Planning and Economic Development Department
- DeQuincy Chamber of Commerce
- DeQuincy Economic Commission
- Greater Beauregard Chamber of Commerce
- Jeff Davis Business Alliance
- Jeff Davis Parish Office of Economic Development
- Jennings Main Street
- Kinder Louisiana Chamber of Commerce
- Lake Charles Downtown Development Authority
- Lake Charles Regional Airport
- Oakdale Area Chamber of Commerce
- Sulphur Industrial Development Board
- The Chamber/SWLA
- The Port of Lake Charles
- West Calcasieu Port, Harbor and Terminal District

6. Central Region

- Alexandria Central Economic Development District
- Alexandria/Pineville Convention and Visitors Bureau
- Alexandria Regional Port Authority
- Avoyelles Parish Port Commission
- Central Louisiana Business Incubator
- Central Louisiana Chamber of Commerce
- Concordia Economic & Industrial Development Board
- Concordia Parish Chamber of Commerce
- England Economic and Industrial Development District
- Greater Alexandria Economic Development Authority
- Greater Vernon Chamber of Commerce
- LaSalle Economic Development District
- North Rapides Business and Industry Alliance
- O.U.T.S.: Olla, Urania, Tullos, Standard Economic Development Board
- Pineville Downtown Development District
- The Rapides Foundation
- Winn Economic and Industrial District

7. Northeast Region

- Bernice Industrial Development Corporation
- Caldwell Parish Industrial Development Board
- Franklin Economic Development Foundation
- Jackson Parish Chamber of Commerce
- Jackson Parish Economic Development
- LA Delta 65 Inc.
- Lake Providence Port Commission
- Monroe Chamber of Commerce

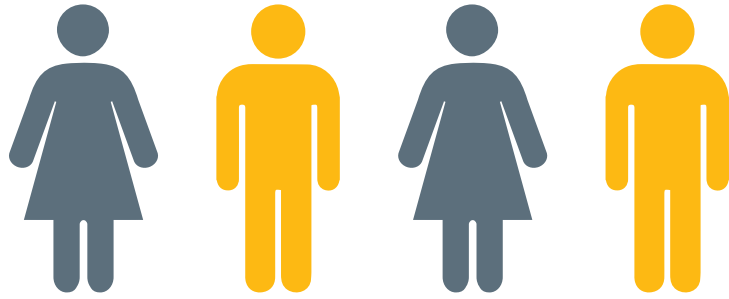
- Morehouse Economic Development Commission
- Rayville Economic Development
- Tensas Revitalization Alliance
- Union Parish Chamber of Commerce
- West Carroll Parish Chamber of Commerce
- West Monroe-West Ouachita Chamber of Commerce

8. Northwest Region

- Arcadia/Bienville Parish Chamber of Commerce
- Bossier Chamber of Commerce
- Caddo-Bossier Port Commission
- City of Natchitoches Economic Development Commission
- Claiborne Chamber of Commerce
- DeSoto Parish Chamber of Commerce
- Greater Bossier Economic Development Foundation
- Greater Shreveport Chamber of Commerce
- Minden-South Webster Chamber of Commerce
- Natchitoches Area Chamber of Commerce
- North Webster Chamber of Commerce
- Red River Parish Chamber of Commerce
- Ruston-Lincoln Chamber of Commerce
- Sabine Parish Chamber of Commerce

In addition to working with these organizations, LED regularly works with municipalities, parishes, police juries and utilities on economic development initiatives.

- Statewide partners include:
- American Electric Power/Southwestern Electric Power Company
 - Association of Louisiana Electric Cooperatives
 - Center for Lean Excellence
 - Cleco Corp.
 - Entergy Louisiana Economic Development
 - Louisiana Association of Planning and Development Districts
 - Louisiana Business Incubation Association
 - Louisiana Industrial Development Executives Association
 - Louisiana Municipal Association
 - Louisiana Public Facilities Authority
 - Louisiana Small Business Development Center Network
 - Manufacturing Extension Partnership of Louisiana
 - Police Jury Association of Louisiana
 - Ports Association of Louisiana
 - Procurement Technical Assistance Center



MAKE GREAT CONNECTIONS

Louisiana Job Connection is a new, free website designed to simplify the hiring process. The site's unique, advanced matching algorithm cuts the clutter to pair Louisiana employers with only the most qualified, ideal candidates for their talent recruitment needs.



 **LOUISIANA
JOB CONNECTION**

www.louisianajobconnection.com